

**U.S. Department of Justice**



*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2003**

**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono**  
**United States Attorney**  
**Alfred Rubega**  
**Assistant U.S. Attorney**  
**(603) 225-1552**

**PASSPORT FRAUD DEFENDANT**  
**INDICTED ON BAIL JUMPING CHARGE**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that a federal Grand Jury has returned an indictment against 30-year-old Roberto Antonio Suarez on a charge of bail jumping. According to the indictment, Suarez failed to appear for trial in U. S. District Court in Concord, New Hampshire on March 4, 2003. Suarez had been residing in the Bronx prior to his disappearance.

Suarez, who is from the Dominican Republic, was indicted on July 10, 2002 on a charge of fraudulently attempting to obtain a United States passport by claiming that he was born in Puerto Rico. Suarez also allegedly submitted a counterfeit Puerto Rican birth certificate along with the fraudulent passport application. The alleged fraud was detected by officials at the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Prosecutors sought to have the defendant detained as a flight risk pending trial, citing his lack of ties to New Hampshire, his immigration status and other factors. However, he was released on an unsecured personal recognizance bond on September 26, 2002. Suarez thereafter failed to abide by his release conditions, and failed to appear for trial.

If found and convicted of bail jumping, Suarez faces a potential sentence of five years imprisonment and fines of up to \$250,000. This case was investigated by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the U.S. State Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alfred Rubega.

**An indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.**